

Last year while on my way to the midnight Christmas Eve service, I received good news from my daughter that she was expecting her first child. My heart was filled with joy! My daughter and son-in-law were living in Vietnam, so when I hung up the phone my thoughts immediately focused on where the child would be born. They wanted a homebirth but that was illegal in Vietnam. Will they come to the US to have the baby? I had recently moved from a house into a small apartment, so there was no room for them. My thoughts immediately went to Mary and Joseph and how they must have experienced the same excitement mixed with restlessness over where Mary would give birth on the eve that Jesus was born since there was no room at the Inn. The Christ Child was finally born in a manger.

St. Augustine wrote "our hearts are forever restless until they find their rest in God." One never experiences true peace until one discovers the peace of God. There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every human being yearning to be filled. I truly believe that the peace that one's heart desires will always escape us until we follow the star to the manger. Will you be one who welcomes the Prince of Peace in your life, or will you be one whose life has no room?

—Sandra Lyn Pierce
Director of Children and Family Ministry